

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-06 AID-05 NASA-01 OES-07  
INT-05 PC-01 DODE-00 PM-05 L-03 NSC-05 ERDA-05  
SS-15 /073 R

DRAFTED BY ASIA/IK:WWPCHING :HJPETREQUIN, JR.:SB  
APPROVED BY DAA/ASIA:MHBADLER  
EA/ANP:WGALLAGHER  
TA/EHR:CBLOCK (DRAFT)  
CU/EA:LSTERMER  
ASIA/PD:RQUEENER (INFO)  
GC/ASIA:HMORRIS

-----073616 172314Z /75

P 172146Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (USP) ATS-6  
PROPOSAL (REF: STATE 184092)

1. SUMMARY. USP ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PROBABLE APPROVAL WERE  
BASED IN PART ON THEIR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH NASA.  
USP SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT NASA ASSESSMENTS OF THE  
TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF USING ATS-6 IN ANY WAY CONNOTES  
AID ENDORSEMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDING. AID'S DETERMINATION  
MUST BE BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENTAL USEFULNESS OF THE  
PROGRAM, AS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO  
DEMONSTRATE DIRECT BENEFITS TO THE POOR MAJORITY. A  
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NUMBER OF BASIC QUESTIONS GERMANE TO THAT AID DECISION  
REMAIN UNANSWERED.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE, AID, INTERIOR, PEACE CORPS  
AND NASA MET ON AUGUST 10 TO ADDRESS SEVERAL ISSUES OF  
THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL. IT WAS REVEALED THAT USP  
VICE CHANCELLOR MARAJ WAS BRIEFED INFORMALLY BY

TECHNICIANS AT NASA GODDARD SPACE CENTER LAST JUNE AND ADVISED THAT A 2 WAY S BAND VIDEO LINK WAS BEING RESERVED FOR USP. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY SUPPORTED AN ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL WAS ON TRACK AND ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS STOOD IN THE WAY OF SECURING FUNDS. TO AVOID ANY FURTHER MISLEADING SIGNALS THAT MAY BE PASSED TO USP OFFICIALS, STATE/AID WILL COORDINATE ALL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE USP PROPOSAL. NASA'S OFFICIAL TECHNICAL REVIEW WILL GO FORWARD TO ITS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE THIS WEEK FOR TRANSMISSION TO USP, AND CU/STATE/AID WILL PARTICIPATE IN DRAFTING COVERING LETTER EXPLAINING STATUS AND CONTINGENCIES. NASA'S ANALYSIS WILL MERELY DELINEATE THAT PORTION OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, NAMELY VIDEO BROADCASTING FROM SUVA. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE TECHNICAL AND PROGRAMATIC RESERVATIONS STILL UNRESOLVED:

3. TECHNICAL:

A) UNCERTAINTY OF A FOLLOW-ON SATELLITE FOR CONTINUING SERVICE, CONSIDERING THAT NASA CAN MAKE NO GUARANTEES OF ATS-6 OPERATIONS BEYOND 1979, THOUGH ITS DEMISE WILL LIKELY BE GRADUAL, E.G. 85 PERCENT USE BY 1981;

B) COSTS OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF GROUND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EQUIPMENT AND HOW CONTRACT PERSONNEL REQUIRED FOR THIS WILL BE PROVIDED ARE UNKNOWN;

C) ASSESSMENT OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY (MORE HOURS AND/OR A SECOND CHANNEL) OF THE PRESENT VOICE CHANNEL (ATS-1); NASA RECOMMENDS CONTINUED USE OF ATS-1 FOR ALL VOICE MODES RATHER THAN ATS-6;

D) EVALUATION OF FACSIMILE (OR SLOW SCAN TV) AND DATA (TELEPRINTER) AS SUPPORTING ELEMENTS TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM;

E) COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LIVE AND RECORDED TV WITH THAT OF THE VOICE CHANNEL IN THE PACIFIC REGION;

F) VERIFICATION OF THE COVERAGE LIMITATIONS OF THE ATS-6 SATELLITE INCLUDING VOICE TRANSMISSION WITH A VHF UPLINK AND ONE WAY VIDEO WITH A C OR S BAND UPLINK.

4. PROGRAMATIC:

A) VAGUENESS ABOUT THE ACTUAL CONTENT OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL USES OF THE SATELLITE, PROPOSED DURATION OF EXPERIMENTS, AND STAFF REQUIRED;

B) EXISTENCE OF AGREEMENTS TYING USP INTO

EXISTING OR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AGENCIES, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND ASSURANCE THAT USP CAN ASSUME A DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE VIS A VIS THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS IN CONCERT WITH SPC AND SPEC WHICH ARE BEING STRENGTHENED FOR THE VERY SAME OBJECTIVES;  
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C) PLANS FOR SHARING THE TERMINALS AND SATELLITE CAPACITY WITH OTHER POTENTIAL USERS SUCH AS HEALTH AGENCIES, DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, INDIGENOUS CULTURAL GROUPS, PLANNING AGENCIES;

D) INADEQUATE COST PROJECTIONS FOR HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED BY THE PROJECT;

E) COST OF DEVELOPING A SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM RELATIVE TO THE LIMITED POPULATION IN THE AREA SERVED BY THE USP AND THE LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THAT INSTITUTION;

F) INADEQUATE ATTENTION TO HOW THE PROPOSAL WILL BENEFIT THE GENERAL POPULATION OF THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS.

5. MEETING OF NASA, STATE, INTERIOR, PEACE CORPS, CU AND AID PERSONNEL CONVENED 10 AUGUST TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL QUESTIONS CONCLUDED THAT THE USP PROPOSAL AS IT NOW STANDS IS INSUFFICIENT IN ADDRESSING FOREGOING CONCERNS. NASA WILL SUMMARIZE TECHNICAL ISSUES IN ITS REPLY AND COVERING LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL WILL DEAL MORE FULLY WITH PROGRAM ISSUES.

6. THE IMUS/GULICK SURVEY REPORT STATED THAT THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE TO THE USP EXTENSION TEACHING PROGRAM MAY REQUIRE AND MERIT MODEST SUPPORT IF A FEASIBLE PROGRAM CAN BE DEVELOPED. THE REVISED USP PROPOSAL FOR USE OF THE ATS-6 HAS AN ESTIMATED BUDGET OF DOLS 830,000 WHICH CAN HARDLY BE CLASSIFIED AS MODEST SUPPORT. GIVEN THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF THE FOREGOING TECHNICAL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAMMATIC RESERVATIONS STILL HELD REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL, WE RESERVE JUDGEMENT AS TO WHETHER IT REALLY IS FEASIBLE. EVEN IF USP WERE TO DEVELOP A TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE PROGRAM FOR THE ATS-6, ITS COST IN RELATION TO THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES SERVED MAKE SUCH AN EXPERIMENTAL UNDERTAKING A POOR COMPETITOR WITH OTHER PROPOSED REGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THEREFORE CURRENT AID STRATEGY IS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE SOPHISTICATED SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR USP.

7. DECONTROL FOLLOWING AUGUST 31, 1978. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SCIENTIFIC GRANTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), SATELLITES, UNIVERSITIES  
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**TAGS:** OEXC, TSPA, NASA, UNIV OF SOUTH PACIFIC  
**To:** SUVA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009